An Interview with Mrs. Anna Walsh who is now living with her son, Mr. James Walsh, 75 Maple Parkway, Mohawk,N.J. (as of 4/1/64)

At the age of eighty four and six months, I look back with great deal of pleasure on my young life spent at Glenside Park (Feltville or Deserted Village) ..... Our doctor's sister had been a friend of my grandmother - who had just died. The doctor took it up with Mrs. Halstead whose husband General Halsted, had been in business with Mr. Ackerman during the Civil War - had a factory in Elizabeth and did gov't work. The title, General, was a compliment for his wonderful work in supplying, with boots, blankets, saddles, etc. The General was able to get a job for ~~her~~ father so that they could move into the country. So in May 1883 we moved to Tower Hill on top of the mountain over Westfield (was known Highland country Boys Home) Mr. Ackerman had bought the property from a Mrs. Gursmith (?) whose husband had died and she was left alone with seven small children. She returned to her home in Chicago. We lived at Tower Hill for a year and in ~~My~~ May 1884, we moved over to the Deserted Village and occupied the old mansion house which I remember as being large. I lived in a room with shelve all around the room (library, perhaps). We were only there about a month when the house was condemned as being unsafe, so we moved to one of the front cottages which had been fixed over for us. A visitor to the Village was a family by the name of Mrs. Frederick Adams took ~~a~~ a liking to the house for a summer so Mr. Ackerman repaired the adjoining cottage for us. The water we got from a well in back of the cottage. There was no baths in the houses at that time. Mrs. Adams was the one who induced Mr. Ackerman to turn the place into the or summer resort - and Mr. Ackerman did just that Mrs. Norris - wife with 2 children (daughters) Friends of Mrs Adam. from Norfolk, Va. operated the place for two years. Mrs. Hamilton one season, she married Charles Drake. Then my parents took over. First year Mr. Ackerman charged them no rental for the use of the cottages andthe rental per year for the cottages for the Molloys was 350 dollars per year until Mr. Ackerman s death in 1895. Then the rental jumped to 1200 dollars per year. The brochure was published three times in one summer. When altering the cottages Mr. Ackerman had Mr. Frank Hasniger who had become the first manager of Mr. Ackerman s estate (Feltville) build a reservoir, pumping station, steam laundry, green house, tennis court and later a 9 hole golf course. Mr. Molloy paid for having the golf course made. It was built some time after the Balturol Golf course. The whole summer resort was started 1884 and a big job it. Father ran the green himself and raised all the flowers for the many flower beds in the resort. He took care of all flower beds and lawns, pumped the water up to the reservoir. In the beginning Mr. Ackerman furnished all the cottages. After he died, Mr. Molloy had to pay for all the replacements. All the floors were covered with matting. It was quite attractive as I remember. Some more items about the Resort. There were two summer houses, both were in tact when he took over. One summer house was across the road from the mansion and was circular in shape - something like the band stands. The othe was sqaure and located on the edge of the bluff and it has a roof over it. Mr. Molloy put up the flag pole, it ~~have~~ been replaced in later years. It is hard to remember dates so back. The new dinning cottage (as we called it) must have been built in 1889 and the new barn in 1890. The cottages, originally, were two family dwellings having an entrance on each end with small steps leading to the doors. The kitchen for the dinning cottages was in the basement and the food sent up on the dumb waiter. It had large brick fire place.

Not the same as orig — also more — see p 7+8 of handwritten letter

not in handwritten original

D.A. 1977 from James B Hawley